

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 017105

P R 171300Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7778

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KARACHI 0115

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, US, IN, AF, CH, UR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO

1. WE HAD DINNER WITH THE BHUTTOS LAST NIGHT AND THEN JUST THE TWO OF US STAYED ON TO THE WEE HOURS. AT THE DINNER ITSELF, WHICH WAS SMALL, MOST INTERESTING GUESTS WERE GOVERNOR OF SIND, PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW, AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF AIR FORCE. BHUTTO HAS A STYLE THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN AND HE AND I TALKED BUSINESS ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE TIME, EVEN WITH THE LADIES PRESENT. FOLLOWING ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST.(#

(A) NEAR END OF DINNER, BHUTTO, IN A DELIBERATE AND ABRUPT ASIDE FROM THE GENERAL CONVERSATION TURNED TO HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION AND SAID "THE RUSSIANS
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ARE COURTING US WITH SPECIFIC THINGS, SAYING IN RETURN THAT WE SHOULD REJECT CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST AND THINGS LIKE CENTO. I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS KIND OF DEAL WITH THEM. I MAY BE A FOOL AS I DON'T THINK THAT WHATEVER I DO

AMERICA IS GOING TO HELP ME WITH MY MILITARY SUPPLY PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, MY FEELINGS ARE SO STRONG ON NIXON PERSONALLY AND HIS ADMINISTRATION, THAT I AM NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING TOO EMBARRASS HIM DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES." I THANKED BHUTTO FOR THIS EXPRESSION OF HIS FEELINGS ABOUT US. I SAID THIS EVIDENCE OF HIS SOLID FRIENDSHIP AND INTENTIONS WOULD, HOWEVER, IN NO WAY SERVE TO LESSEN MY OWN ENDEAVORS TO BE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE AS I COULD TO HIM IN CURRENT PROBLEMS HE FACES.

(B) MORE THAN ONCE HE TOOK INITIATIVE TO TALK ABOUT RECOGNIZING BANGLADESH, IN TERMS THAT MADE ME THINK SOME MOVE ON HIS PART WAS IMMINENT. I THOUGHT I MIGHT GET THIS OUT OF HIM BY NOTING THE AWKWARDNESS OF THE PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING MUSLIM CONFERENCE. HE FAILED, HOWEVER, TO ELABORATE FURTHER. I URGED HE FIND A WAY FOR GOOD OF ENTIRE SUB-CONTINENT.

(C) BHUTTO PROJECTED AGREEMENT AT GENEVA ON SEPARATION OF FORCES, BEING MORE CONCERNED OVER FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS JERUSALEM AND THE PALESTINIANS (AZIZ AHMED TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO JORDAN SOON ON THE LATTER PROBLEM BUT GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS). BHUTTO SAID HE WANTED ME TO WHISPER INTO KISSINGER'S EAR THAT IN HIS OPINION IN THE END THE KEY (AND HELPFUL) FIGURE ON ALL OF THIS WOULD TURN OUT TO BE ASAD OF SYRIA AND NOT SADAT. I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW ASAD, BUT WAS SURPRISED BY HIS REMARK. HE APPEARED QUITE SERIOUS AND OBVIOUSLY WANTED ME TO REPORT HIS STATEMENT.

(D) HE SAID HE HAD ASSURANCES FROM QADHAFI AND OTHERS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TROUBLE FOR THE U.S. HERE IN THE UPCOMING MUSLIM CONFERENCE.

(E) HE SAID ABU DHABI HAD APPROACHED HIM WITH A
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STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT PAKISTAN TRY TO GET ITSELF INVITED TO THE UPCOMING MEETING OF OIL CONSUMERS. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SEND PRESIDENT NIXON A LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD GIVE ME A COPY RIGHT AWAY. I SAID I WAS NOT FULLY UP-TO-DATE ON THE COMPOSITION AND TIMING OF CONFERENCE, ITS AGENDA, ETC, BUT THAT I THOUGHT PAKISTAN MIGHT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE AS TO HOW THE CURRENT ENERGY AND PRICE CRISIS WAS AFFECTING THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7779

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KARACHI 0115

EXDIS

FROM BYROADE

(F) BHUTTO DID NOT QUITE KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OUT OF THE RECENT MERGER OF LIBYA AND TUNISIA, BUT SEEMED SKEPTICAL IT WOULD LAST IN WORKABLE FASHION.

(G) BHUTTO DOES NOT SEE LONG-RANGE ENMITY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL. HE SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH OF HIS CONVICTION THAT THE ARAB WORLD REALLY WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH AMERICA AND HE PREDICTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN RAPIDLY IF GENEVA COULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

(H) WE TALKED OF WORLD ENERGY AND PRICE CRISIS AT LENGTH BUT WITH NOTHING EMERGING THAT ISN'T TALKED ABOUT NEARLY EVERYWHERE.

(I) BHUTTO SHOWED SOMEWHAT MORE IRRITATION TOWARDS THE SHAH OVER WHAT HE THINKS WAS THE LATTER'S ROLE IN THE DRASTIC PRICE INCREASE OF OIL.

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(J) AFTER DINNER, WHEN ONLY THE MEN WERE PRESENT, CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE HEARTY PERENNIAL SUBJECT HERE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE AIR MARSHALL BECAME QUITE EMOTIONAL, TALKING OF MASSIVE BUILD-UPS IN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN IT SEEMED TO ME HE EXAGGERATED THE AMOUNT OF SOVIET MATERIEL THAT HAS ACTUALLY ARRIVED IN INDIA TO DATE AND I TOLD HIM SO. BHUTTO SAID HE WOULD ASK TIKKA

KHAN TO LAY ON A BRIEFING FOR ME.

(K) SEVERAL TIMES IN THE DISCUSSION ON THE LATTER POINT ABOVE, REFERENCE WAS MADE TO OUR SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE ON ALL THESE MATTERS. I SAID I WAS NOT SO SURE, AS WE WERE OFTEN PUT IN A DIFFICULT POSITION ON THIS ASPECT OF THE MATTER. I SAID EVERYTHING THE U.S. DOES IN A FIELD SUCH AS THIS IS GENERALLY KNOWN, BUT I SAT HERE NOT REALLY KNOWING WHAT THE RUSSIANS WERE GOING TO DO IN EITHER INDIA OR AFGHANISTAN, AND COULD ONLY JUDGE THIS IN TERMS OF WORLDWIDE RELATIONSHIPS, ALONG WITH WHAT ONE CAN ONLY ESTIMATE TO BE REAL SOVIET INTENTIONS. I LAUGHINGLY SAID THAT I DID NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE EXTREMELY HIGHLY POWERED CHINESE MILITARY MISSION HERE. BHUTTO REPLIED "I WILL TELL YOU. NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING." HE SAID IF IT WERE OTHERWISE HE WOULD TELL ME SO. HE SAID THE CHINESE TAKE THE STANCE THAT THEY ARE ON A "LOOK AND LEARN" OBSERVATION TOUR, AND THAT NOTHING WOULD REALLY COME OUT OF IT ALL EXCEPT LENGTHY SPEECHES OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION.

2. ABOUT MIDNIGHT, BHUTTO RATHER ABRUPTLY TOLD ALL HIS GUESTS TO GO HOME BUT OURSELVES, AND TOOK US BACK IN THE LIBRARY, WHICH I HEARD OF AND IS REALLY A THING TO BEHOLD. IT IS BY FAR THE BEST PRIVATE COLLECTION I HAVE EVER SEEN AND SOME OF ITS ANTIQUES WOULD APPEAR ALMOST PRICELESS. I ASSUMED THAT HE HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL TO TELL ME, BUT IT NEVER CAME. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE TYPE OF SOCIAL DISCOURSE THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE RESERVED FOR THE TABLE. ABOUT 2 A.M. I DECIDED I WAS NO MATCH WITH BHUTTO AT THE BRANDY GAME SO WE WENT HOME.

3. I AM COMING BACK TO KARACHI ALONG WITH MOYNIHAN
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ON LENGTHY AND AWKWARD COMMERCIAL FLIGHT NEXT WEDNESDAY, WHERE PAKISTAN AIRPLANE WILL TAKE US TO HYDRABAD FOR LUNCH WITH BHUTTO. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS WHERE THE PAKS HAVE HAD TO RESCUE ME WITH THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT, AS OUR LITTLE "JOHN-LESS" U-8 IS EXCEEDINGLY SLOW AND NOW WE CANNOT EVEN GET FUEL FOR IT. HOPE SOMEONE BACK HOME IS STILL TRYING TO GET US AN ATTACHE AIRCRAFT, OR AT LEAST A MORE ECONOMICAL AND FASTER U-21. BETTER EXPECT A CABLE ON THIS FROM TIME TO TIME.
TIGER

SECRET

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